

CLASSIFICATION **CONFIDENTIAL**  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary  
 SUBJECT Economic - Fuel, power  
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers  
 WHERE PUBLISHED Budapest  
 DATE PUBLISHED 12 - 18 Jan 1951  
 LANGUAGE Hungarian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

DATE DIST. 26 Feb 1951

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF ESPIONAGE ACT 18 U. S. C. 21 AND 22, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

PLAN TO PRODUCE COAL GAS UNDERGROUND;  
 MINES CHANGE WORK SCHEDULES

WILL USE SOVIET METHOD -- Budapest, Vilagossag, 17 Jan 51

Deposits in a good many Hungarian brown coal mines are too thin to warrant profitable extraction. In some cases the combined thickness of the layers is considerable, but the layers are separated by barren strata, removal of which would excessively increase the cost of exploitation.

Experiments will be begun shortly to utilize these sources of energy by the use of a Soviet method. Under this method the coal is heated and gasified underground on the same principle as employed in gas generators. The gas thus obtained is then conducted through pipelines into the industrial establishments and households.

The Soviet mining engineers Kirichenko and Drago experimented with the underground gasification of coal in the Don Basin as early as 1931. Subsequently, a special research institute was established, and, as a result of experiments, several plants are operated in the USSR by the PODZEMGAZ /Underground Gasification of Coal/ Institute at present, furnishing gas not only for heating but also for the chemical industry.

In Hungary, the National Planning Office has commissioned a special committee to prepare a budget for experiments.

INTRODUCE CYCLICAL WORK IN COAL MINES -- Budapest, Kis Ujsag, 18 Jan 51

The Hungarian coal mines have adopted the Soviet method of cyclical operation.

Under the old method, each shift spent 2 to 3 hours in carrying pit props into the shafts, building slips, etc., before commencing mining operations. As a result, the transport crews were kept idle during this preparatory work, but

- 1 -

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CLASSIFICATION		CONFIDENTIAL		DISTRIBUTION									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NSRB											
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBI											

50X1-HUM

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

were confronted with a stream of coal, with which they could not cope, after mining had been begun. An inadequate supply of mine trucks was another bottleneck.

These difficulties have been eliminated through the introduction of cyclical operation. Under this method the night shift performs all the preparatory work, while the second and third shifts can devote their full time to mining.

The chief advantages of the cyclical method are: (1) elimination of a transport crew in the night shift, which makes a larger transport personnel available for the day shifts; (2) speed-up of coal transportation from the shafts to the surface; and (3) relieving the miners of maintenance work which can be performed by unskilled labor.

#### ABSENTEEISM IN HUNGARIAN COAL MINE INCREASES -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 13 Jan 51

Absenteeism at the Pils coal mines has been increasing steadily from 791 shifts in September to 914 in October, 936 in November, and 1,036 shifts in December 1950.

The miners are in the habit of meeting in the compressor station with Gustav Berenyi, machinist, to discuss their grievances. Berenyi used to be a pilot officer during the Horthy regime and attacked the Communists violently in 1947.

One of the complaints of the miners is that there is insufficient compressed air in the shafts for the operation of the drills. A large amount of explosives is, therefore, used and this results in powdered coal.

The lack of compressed air is due partly to the defective compressor and partly to Berenyi's manipulations. Other hostile employees are Andor Zsoter, Michael Orban, and Laszlo Bencze.

#### EXPLOSION KILLS 81, INJURES 32 -- Budapest, Friss Ujsag, 13 Jan 51

An explosion at the Tatabanya coal mines resulted in the death of 81 miners, while 32 miners suffered injuries. The force of the explosion rocked the entire mine and caused considerable damage.

Investigation disclosed that the explosion was caused by blasting with "paxit" in the presence of methane gas in the shaft in violation of regulations. Prevention of the use of paxit was the responsibility of the mine administration which neglected to issue appropriate instructions.

#### STAGGER PLANT SCHEDULES TO SAVE ELECTRICITY -- Budapest, Kis Ujsag, 12 Jan 51

Heavy fluctuation in the load on the Budapest power transmission network, together with the recommendations of the Economy Resolution of the Hungarian Cabinet Council, has led to the adoption of various methods of staggering industrial operations. In some of the plants the night shifts have been enlarged and the afternoon shifts reduced. Other plants have begun to replace electric furnaces by gas furnaces.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

50X1-HUM

Each plant has organized a special department to investigate this problem and bonuses are awarded for practical suggestions. In certain industries, in which continuous operation is essential, such as the flour milling industry, the aluminum industry, etc., the problem is particularly difficult to solve.

All plants must submit quarterly plans for the reduction of peak loads to the National Planning Office and violation of the peak load reduction order is considered equivalent to infringement of the Five-Year Plan.

- E N D -

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**